



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



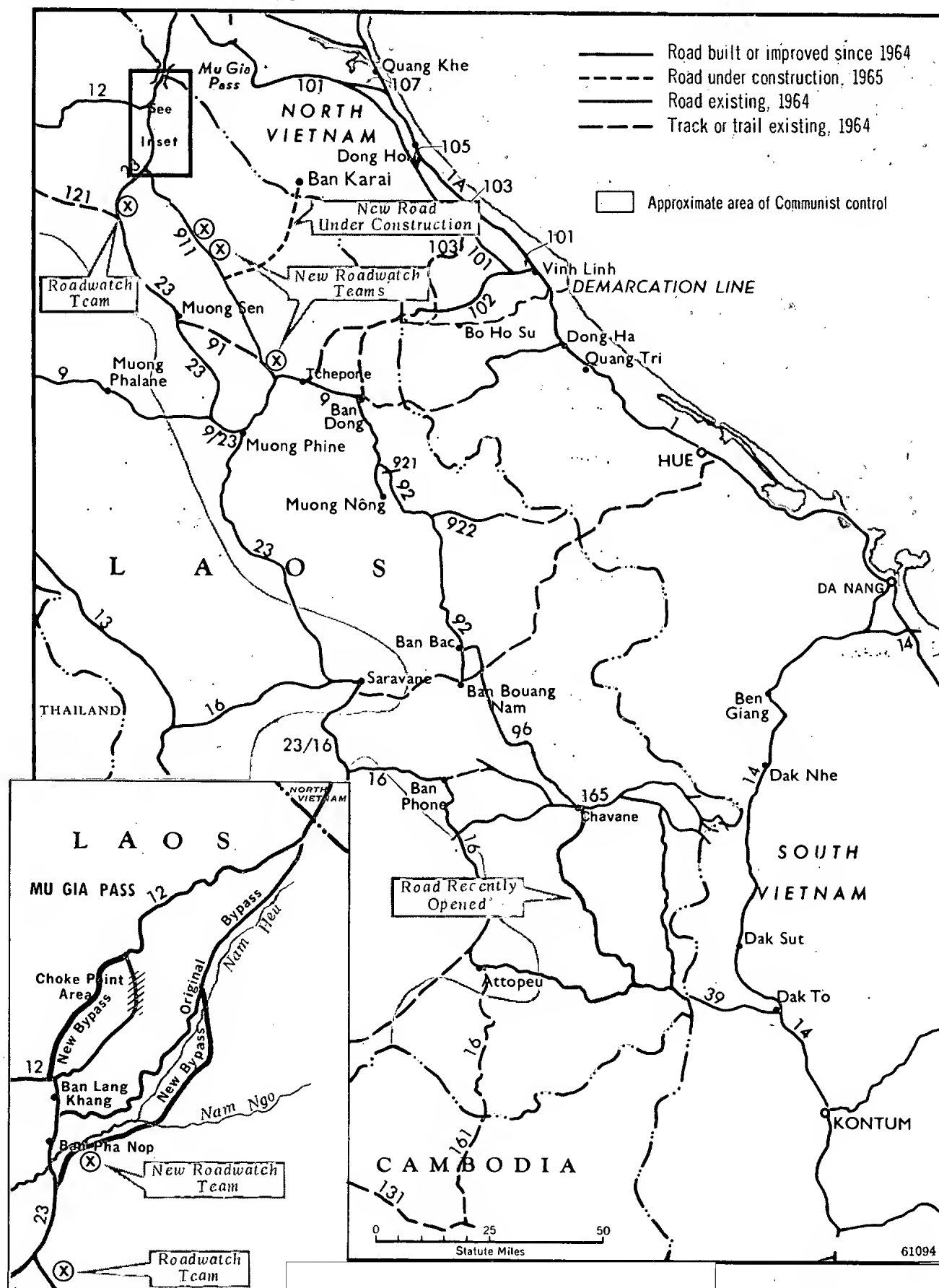
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17 FEBRUARY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. North Vietnam

Hanoi is striving for greater efficiency in indoctrinating its populace, chiefly to increase the "anti-US war effort."

A recent article in the party journal says a newly created government department will "correct weaknesses in the propaganda," establish information branches at all levels, and provide "guidance" for radio listening and newspaper reading.

This campaign, coming at the same time as politburo member Le Duc Tho's frank exposé of party problems, indicates Hanoi's awareness of dissatisfaction--and probably a significant amount of ignorance--about regime policy among the populace.

2. Laos

The Communists are continuing to improve and expand the infiltration network in Laos.

Since early January, two new bypasses to regular numbered routes have been completed, and [redacted] one nearly completed new road leading from Route 911 to the North Vietnamese border. [redacted]

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Roadwatch teams report Communist southbound truck movements are somewhat reduced. The teams have been hampered, however, by enemy patrol activity, and possible bypassing of their positions. Four new teams now in place should provide a more accurate count.

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3. North Vietnam

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4. Communist China

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5. Soviet Union

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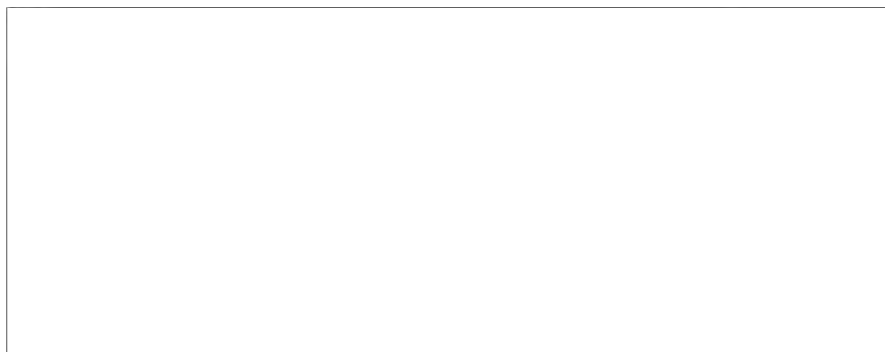
6. Yemen

The Harad peace conference is unlikely to reconvene as scheduled on Sunday unless there is some last minute reconciliation in the opposing Egyptian and Saudi Arabian positions. Postponement would increase the chances of renewed civil war.

The Egyptians say they cannot withdraw their troops as promised until there is agreement on a caretaker government in Yemen. The Saudis are under growing pressure to resume arms support for the Yemeni royalists unless Egypt quickly begins withdrawals. Both Egypt and Saudi Arabia are sending high officials to Washington in search of US support.

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7. Ghana



8. France

Paris is now evidently reviving fundamental political objections to the Kennedy Round. In a speech on Tuesday, Agriculture Minister Faure charged that the Kennedy Round is one of the principal obstacles to the gradual formation of a "prudent and efficient" European Union.

Faure also blasted those "fanatical Europeans who want to make Europe so Atlantic that it is no longer European."

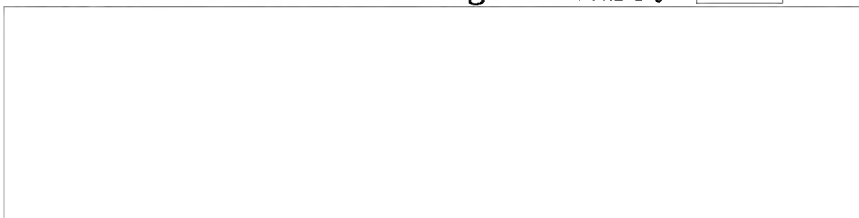
Faure's views, which he has advanced on two other recent occasions, suggest that France not only intends to continue to drag its feet on the Kennedy Round, but that it also may hope ultimately to prevent the conclusion of an agreement.

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9. West Germany

Chancellor Erhard's domestic political stock is continuing to rise. [redacted]

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10. Dominican Republic

The strike dissolved rapidly today, but the confrontation between Garcia Godoy and the military remains unresolved.

The president's speech last night demanding an end to the strike was his strongest and most authoritative to date. His firm tone and his announcement that he would immediately order the replacement of the army and air force chiefs led non-Communist strike leaders to call on their followers to return to their jobs. The Bosch forces can now claim a significant victory.



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Conservative political factions are again rallying to the military side and it is unknown at this point how the president intends to try to bring about the officers' departures. He did clearly imply in his speech that he would not call on the Inter-American Peace Force for help in removing the generals.

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